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Approved For Release 2004/01/16 : CIA-RDP75-00149R000500310038-5

BOSTON, MASS.

HERALD

M. 178,553

S. 283,819

JUN 19 1966

George : LBJ PLEASED, BUT Minot : CONGRESS' WORK UNDONE

WASHINGTON—"After returning from the Easter recess, Congress began to move into high gear . . ." So starts the lead article in the June issue of a respected magazine. The writer couldn't be more wrong. Here it is some 10 weeks after Easter, five and a half months of the session gone, and almost all of the work is undone.

And it was only the other day that President Johnson told a group of reporters: "We are very pleased with what Congress is doing. I don't think we should panic because we have some problems." This isn't what he told some of his other visitors — not for quotation—later that same day.

Nobody is getting into a panic because Congress has so much unfinished business ahead. Least of all the men on Capitol Hill themselves. Ordinarily, in an election year, they are in a hurry to wind up and go home. Not so this year. One of them spoke for a sizeable group in a cocktail lounge over the week-end.

"WHENEVER I GO home everybody buttonholes me and asks: 'What is the truth about this war? What the hell is going on in

Vietnam? How long are we going to be there? Why did we get into it in the first place? And I don't know what to say, because I have to confess that I don't know myself."

Another spoke up: "We are in a mess all right, and the Democrats have to take the rap. People are bothered. If it wasn't for the war the elections this year would be a cinch. The war, and the high cost of living," he added as an afterthought.

"I think I can pull through all right," said this House member from the Mid-West, "as long as the national committee doesn't send anybody from the Administration out to help me. They would be sure to bring up Vietnam, then somebody in the audience would start asking questions, and I would be in more trouble than I am now. I could use some of the Kennedy family, but that's all."

MEANTIME, PRESIDENT Johnson's program simply isn't getting off the ground. Originally, the president set July 1 as a possible date for adjournment. Now Speaker McCormack has told House members that they can count on a 10-day recess around the Fourth of July. Officially, they are talking about trying to adjourn around Labor Day.

Last year Congress didn't get out until late in October, and the chances are this session



Canfield, New York Herald Tribune

"As I understand it, he wants us to run as an entry!" won't adjourn too much earlier. Thus the campaigns will be brief in the fall, and everybody will get a break that way.

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